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19 June 1956

Operation Alert
15 - 15 July 1956

1. There are a number of essential tasks to be performed before the proposed DD/I plans for Operation Alert 1956 can be accomplished. These essential tasks are itemized as follows:

a. To pursue and establish inter-agency understandings whereby the support currently available to the CIA from the intelligence files and working personnel of other agencies would continue to be available to CIA in a wartime situation. To establish particularly the coordinations necessary for the operation of such mutual support under conditions of relocation. CIA, in turn, to continue the working-level support it provides. This task to concern itself with agencies whose support, or servicing, is held to be of major importance in the CIA mission -- e.g., AMS, Air Force Targets, State Department Research and Intelligence, etc.

b. To pursue and establish understandings as to inter-agency projects that will be conducted in wartime. To make necessary logistical plans in support of the operation of these projects.

c. To familiarize personnel and test management techniques by conducting command post exercises which involve the intelligence community. If this is not initially possible, to conduct CPX's in concert with the DD/P and the DD/S. Such dry runs are essential to the Agency's preparedness. To date, there have been none. The DD/I CPX in 1956 was useful, but in a very limited way.

2. After the completion of essential tasks 1.a. and 1.b. above, the working level should address itself to a translation of policy into working plans. The basic policy to be translated results from the establishment of arrangements with the Army, Navy, Air Force, NSA, and State. The working plans would consist of an assessment of specific project types that will be working jointly, the qualitative and quantitative limits to requests to be accepted, and other characteristics of work which can be specified.

3. I recommend, therefore, that:

a. CIA pursue and establish inter-agency understandings through the negotiation of agreements with other intelligence agencies as to the wartime support to be given by one to the others, and the means by which it can be effected.

b. If possible, a new plan involving a CPK with the DD/F and the DD/S be substituted for the present DD/I Alert Plan.

c. The present DD/I Alert Plan be cancelled.

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